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OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

NARRATOR:

Relative calm has settled on Los Angeles after five days of riots and destruction. The laborious work, not only of repairing the damage but -- what is more important -- getting to the sources of the evil and eradicating its causes, has begun. The Governor of California, Edmund Brown, has decided to set up a special commission consisting of generally respected citizens whose task will be to examine the causes and course of the riots impartially. Having stressed that the first, immediate task is the curbing of those criminal elements among the Negro population which exploited the situation for their own base purposes, Governor Brown emphasized that the problem as a whole is extremely complex and has considerable importance for the whole of society.

Senator Kuchel, a Republican from California, declared that law and order must be restored, but that it was also essential to raise the living standards of the underprivileged.

James Farmer, the radical leader of CORE, has condemned the riots in Los Angeles, calling them suicidal for the Negro cause. But he added that the conditions of unemployment and hopelessness prevailing in the Negro ghetto were the basis for the acts of violence.

Calvin Kytle, Director of the Social Relations Service, declared that what happened in Los Angeles was an outburst of the growing tide of disappointments caused by differences in the standard of living. In addition -- in his opinion -- the minority, in this instance a racial one, always has a hostile attitude towards the police. Disturbances usually start with an incident in which juveniles are involved. In the second phase, adults participate in the violence. Finally, in the third phase, the action passes into the hands of criminal elements. So it was in Los Angeles.

No one denies that the conditions in which the Negro
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population lives in the Watts district, where the riots took place, are inferior to those existing in districts inhabited by a white population. Nonetheless, this is in no sense a slum district -- the majority of buildings are small houses with well-kept gardens.

One of the reasons for the underprivileged state of the inhabitants of the Watts district is the fact that they are an immigrant population. More than 1,000 Negroes arrive in Los Angeles every month from the rural regions of the Deep South. These are, for the most part, unskilled agricultural laborers, for whom there are no jobs in modern industry. As a result, they swell the ranks of those living on unemployment assistance. Some of the new arrivals do, of course, find jobs, and earn more than they did in the South. It will suffice to say that, over a period of 10 years, the number of Negroes in Los Angeles earning more than \$4,000 has risen from 6,000 to 100,000. But also, those who earn more meet with all kinds of disappointments. In the first place, the practical, though not legal, segregation in housing. Next, the Negroes, especially the young people, are aware that, in general, they are lower on the social scale than the whites, and thus will have greater difficulties in climbing this ladder. But that is due not so much to the color of their skins as to their inferior education. The number of Negroes who drop out before finishing school is considerably higher than the corresponding figure for whites. The sociologists attribute this to the weakness of family bonds. In more than one-fifth of all Negro families, there is no father. This is a percentage five times higher than among white families. From among the children who know no father, there often grow up young people who have no sense of duty and no ambition to complete their schooling. These find it more difficult to get jobs. They live from day to day, in the streets. When a pretext arises, they are in the forefront of street disturbances and looting.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT